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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Group Art Unit

Examiner:

Applicant:

Morris F. Dilmore et al

Serial No.:

10/039,811

Filed:

January 8, 2002

For:

**METAL CONSOLIDATION
PROCESS APPLICABLE
TO FUNCTIONALLY
GRADIENT MATERIAL
(FGM) COMPOSITIONS
OF TANTALUM AND
OTHER MATERIALS**

a/c
v7/halo

Pasadena, California
May 27, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop CPA
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Insert: --This application is a continuation of
~~Ser. No. 10/039,811 filed 1/8/2002, which is a~~
divisional of Ser. No. 09/592,974 filed 6/12/2000, now
U.S. Patent 6,461,564, which is a continuation-in-part
of Ser. No. 09/551,248 filed 4/18/2000, now U.S. Patent
6,355,209.--

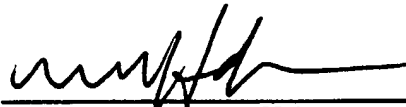
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10/22/03

Claims 1-13 herein correspond to non-elected
claims 29-41 in parent Ser. No. 09/551,24, now U.S.
Patent 6,355,209 incorporated herein by reference.

Kindly re-number claims 1-13 herein, as may be
required, and if necessary.

Allowance is urged.

Respectfully submitted,



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WWH:ts
Docket 12,516